

## MEDIATORS IN HOPEFUL MIND AT END OF DAY

Although Work Yesterday Was  
Confined Largely to Formal  
Procedure, Participants Felt  
More Confidence Last Night.

News From Huerta Not Considered  
Discouraging; Still Hold  
Hopes of Carranza Coming in;  
Deliberations Are to Be Secret

NIAGARA FALLS, May 20.—Mark-  
ing a new era in the relations of  
nations of the western hemisphere,  
delegates from the United States and  
Mexico and the mediators from the  
three great South American republics  
today formally opened the mediation  
conference with which they hope to  
bring peace to Mexico.

Confidence in an amicable settle-  
ment not only of the difficulties which  
have arisen between the United States  
and the Huerta government, but in  
the ultimate pacification of all Mex-  
ico through the avenues of diplomacy,  
was reflected tonight by the medi-  
ators. These proceedings today were  
chiefly concerned with preliminary or-  
ganizations. The deliberations, it was  
made known, shall be secret.

A despatch from Mexico City to  
the effect that Huerta was ready to  
retire, although contradicted by  
corrected dispatches which stated  
that he had given delegates no in-  
structions to offer his resignation, was  
received with interest. It is stated  
that error in transmission had given  
rise to the first statement.

Authentic advices through diplom-  
atic sources several days ago stated  
that the Mexican commissioners were  
clothed with full power to act, and  
had been authorized to agree to the  
elimination of Huerta if necessary to  
bring about a settlement of their coun-  
try's internal and international trou-  
bles. This last step, it was said, was  
to be taken only after it was apparent  
to the commissioners that there was  
no hope for settlement on any other  
basis.

It is indicated in the statement  
made here that if announcement of  
willingness to retire comes from  
Huerta in the near future it will be  
welcomed as making more remote any  
possibility of the resumption of hos-  
tilities between the United States and  
Mexico. It is argued also that with  
Huerta, the mediators might entertain  
hope that Carranza would be brought  
into the conference, or become a party  
to such agreement as reached.

### WASHINGTON RELAXES.

WASHINGTON, May 20.—General  
slackening in the Mexican situation  
has resulted in consideration of plans  
at the Navy Department which in-  
cludes the withdrawal of part of the  
fleet now on the east coast of Mex-  
ico. Acting Secretary Roosevelt said  
he hoped that within a week he would  
have four battleships, five destroyers  
and a tender on the way north. It is  
desired to relieve the fleet a division  
at a time, to give opportunity for over-  
hauling and repairs.

The State Department is still with-  
out results and renewed efforts have  
been started on new lines of communi-  
cation to get information as to the  
state of General John Silliman, at  
Saltillo.

The important development of the  
day was a conference called by Bryan  
at which British Ambassador Spring-  
rice and Minister Van Rappard of the  
Netherlands considered the conditions  
in the Tampico oil fields. Protestants  
it is reported, have been received  
from the oil operators that during the  
absence of the American lease hold-  
ers, prior to capture of the city by  
the rebels, the federal officials ne-  
gated the transfer of American  
leases to British and Dutch oil men.  
Similar protests that the Dutch and  
British holders might suffer since the  
rebels had assumed control, followed.  
An understanding was reached that  
transfers made during the siege of  
Tampico would not be recognized.

### SAFEGUARDING REFUGEE.

VELA CRUZ, May 20.—Marines are  
keeping careful watch to prevent harm  
to Dr. Aureliano Urrutia, Huerta's for-  
mer minister of interior, who is a  
refugee here.

## THE MEDIATORS WHO ARE NOW UNDERTAKING AT NIAGARA FALLS THE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN U. S. AND MEXICO



Left to right: Eduardo Suarez, Chilean minister; Domestio da Gama, Brazilian ambassador, and Honorable S. Nove, Argentine minister.

### HUERTA DENIES AUTHORIZING HIS RESIGNATION

MEXICO CITY, May 20.—Huerta in an interview tonight  
said: "The Mexican peace delegates have no instructions to  
offer my resignation at the conference at Niagara Falls."

The President spoke with energy and emphasized his words  
with a characteristic gesture. The keenest interest is mani-  
fested by all classes in the peace conference. Americans here  
are being kept informed by the Brazilian minister.

### REIGN OF TERROR FEARED IN MEXICAN CAPITAL AS DICTATOR NEARS FALL



Troops marching in San Francisco street in Mexico City.

### MORE EXECUTED THAN KILLED IN BATTLE AT PAREDON; BARBARITY RESUMES AWAY FROM THE BORDER; SALTILLO ATTACK IS DELAYED

Villa Proposes Going Into Engagement With Men Fresh; Are  
Preparing Railroad; Fighting on Sunday Was No Test of  
Strength of Interest Parties; Prominent Federals Executed

ESTANCION AMARGOS, TUESDAY,  
VIA EL PASO, WEDNESDAY, May  
20.—Announcement is made that no  
general advance under Villa will be  
made until the railroad between Paredon  
and Saltillo is repaired, is regard-  
ed here as a certain indication of the  
respect Villa holds for the fighting  
ability of the federal garrison.  
In spite of decisive advantage

gained on the outskirts of Paredon at  
Zertuche, on Sunday Villa has decided  
not to press forward to the main at-  
tack at once.  
Villa is unwilling that the federals  
shall have as allies the fatigue, thirst,  
heat and dust which must be encoun-  
tered on the desert march of 45 miles  
from Paredon, Frausto to Saltillo.  
By his determination to await re-

pair of the railroad he will be enabled  
to bring his troops into action fresh  
and well fed, with his horses in splen-  
did condition and with reserve sup-  
plies of ammunition available near the  
firing line.

Shortness of the battle with the fed-  
erals at Paredon and the small num-  
ber of casualties is regarded here  
more as an evidence of the thorough-  
ness of the surprise occasioned by  
Villa's attack and the complete suc-  
cess of his plans of battle rather than  
as an indication of faint heartedness  
on the part of the federals or bad  
marksmanship.

But 45 were killed on both sides  
and about 110 wounded, although  
nearly 9,000 men were engaged. No  
artillery and machine guns were in  
action. The engagement lasted but  
45 minutes before the federal position  
became untenable and they took flight.

The execution of General Oromo and  
another general whose name is not  
given, together with 32 members of  
an unknown general's staff and other  
federal officials, indicates the bitter-  
ness with which the campaign is being  
waged about Saltillo. Oromo's advance  
in rank in the federal army has been  
rapid. He held a captain's commis-  
sion but two years. General Ignacio  
Munoz, killed in the battle of Paredon,  
was a nephew of General Porfirio  
Diaz.

### CABRERA LIKES IT.

JUAREZ, May 20.—Luis Cabrera,  
eminent lawyer and rebel leader, men-  
tioned as acceptable to the Huerta  
delegates to the South American medi-  
ation conference for the office of pro-  
visional president of Mexico, left Paris  
today for the United States. Accord-  
ing to word received here, Senor  
Cabrera will go at once to Washing-  
ton and after a brief visit there he is  
expected to journey to Torreon or  
Saltillo for a personal conference with  
Carranza.

### THEFT OF WAR MAPS.

HONOLULU, May 20.—Army circles  
are stirred over the reported theft  
from army headquarters of complete  
maps and information concerning the  
island of Oahu. The theft is said to  
have been discovered on the morning  
of May 9. Continuous investigation  
has been in progress since.

### GO TO A DRAW.

BUTTE, May 20.—Bob McAllister,  
of San Francisco, and Tommy McCar-  
thy, of Lewiston, went 12 rounds to a  
draw.

### CUBAN 4TH OF JULY.

HAVANA, May 20.—The anniver-  
sary of Cuban independence was cele-  
brated quietly, the feature being a mil-  
itary review before President Menocal.

### LINDSEY IN WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, May 20.—Hearing  
proposal of a plan for settlement of  
the labor strife in the southern Colo-  
rado coal fields and an appeal to the  
president that the federal troops be  
maintained there, Judge Ben Lindsey,  
of Denver, arrived here tonight. He  
would see the press and also leave  
will see the president at noon.

### MEXICAN ATTORNEYS ARRESTED

JUAREZ, May 20.—Seven Mexican  
attorneys from Saltillo, Torreon and  
Monterrey have been confined in jail  
at Amariques by rebels on charges of  
pernicious political activity. The  
names of the men, said to be well  
known in Northern Mexico, have not  
been learned.

### JACOB RUS THOUGHT DYING

BARRE, Mass., May 20.—The con-  
dition of Jacob Rus, writer and social  
worker, is regarded as critical. His  
physician said there was no hope of  
improvement. His wife came to his  
home two weeks ago suffering  
from chronic heart trouble.

## KERMEEN IS APPREHENDED IN EL PASO

Much Wanted Man in Connection  
With Murder of J. F. Harrell  
Two Weeks Ago Arrested in  
Gate City Yesterday Afternoon

Denies Any Knowledge of Crime;  
Says He Left Bisbee Three  
Weeks Ago; An Officer From  
Here Leaves For Prisoner

EL PASO, May 20.—Detectives this  
afternoon arrested W. W. Kermeen,  
wanted in connection with the murder  
of J. F. Harrell, an employee of the  
Phelps Dodge Mercantile company.  
Kermeen was arrested in his room at  
the Orendorf hotel.

When seen by a reporter in his cell  
at the city jail tonight Kermeen de-  
nied any knowledge of the crime, say-  
ing that the first intimation he knew  
of Harrell's death was when the de-  
tectives told him this afternoon that  
he was accused of the crime.

He said that he knew Harrell per-  
sonally. The accused man said he left  
Bisbee three weeks ago for El Paso.

When asked if he knew a Mrs. R.  
King, also wanted in connection with  
the crime, he said he did. Mrs. King,  
wanted by the Bisbee police, is not  
with Kermeen. He said she went to  
Los Angeles a week before he left for  
El Paso.

Clasett T. Watkins, chief of police  
of Bisbee, received word yesterday  
evening that W. W. Kermeen had been  
taken in El Paso. At first it was not  
certain that the man wanted in Bis-  
bee had been apprehended. Confirmation  
of the fact was received late last  
night from El Paso.

Kermeen acknowledged he was the  
same man who had been with Harrell  
in Bisbee previous to the disappearance  
and death of the latter.

Watkins leaves this morning for El  
Paso to bring back Kermeen, who is  
being held by the El Paso police. The  
chief of police will probably arrive  
here tomorrow morning.

### CALLS HUERTA'S ARMY ASSASSINS



John Lind.

"All Huerta has left is some bands  
of hired assassins," says John Lind,  
President Wilson's special envoy to  
Mexico, who is now in Washington.  
"I do not anticipate any more fight-  
ing between the Huertistas and our  
soldiers, as Huerta will have all he  
can do to contend with the advancing  
forces of the victorious revolution."

### GENERAL MURRAY INSPECTS BORDER



Major-General Arthur Murray, de-  
partment commander of the western  
department of the army, is now on  
a tour of inspection of the border  
posts.

### PROHIBITION AND SUFFRAGE LIKELY TO GO TO DISCARD

WASHINGTON, May 20.—Plea-  
sures for action at this session of  
Congress on either the nation wide  
prohibition or woman suffrage pro-  
posed constitutional amendments,  
has faded further as the result of de-  
velopments in the house.

While presenting the House two  
telegrams from religious gatherings  
praying for Congressional action on  
the prohibition resolution, Represen-  
tative Hobson of Alabama, its sponsor,  
announced that for his part he  
does not propose to press it.

Representative Mondell, author of  
the suffrage amendment resolution,  
said he proposed to urge his measure  
and that he had hoped the Alabama  
member would join with his prohibi-  
tion proposition. Two delegations  
valiantly sought to have the house  
rules committee accord another hear-  
ing on suffrage.

### WILL HURRY THE SENATORS

WASHINGTON, May 20.—The fail-  
ure of Democratic leaders in the sen-  
ate to agree to a vote on the Panama  
tolls bill at the end  
of the week has resulted in renewed  
and more determined efforts to hasten  
the delivery of scheduled speeches.  
Sessions are now beginning at 11  
o'clock and next week will probably  
see regular night sessions in the sen-  
ate.

### BECKER IS REFUSED ADVANTAGE CONCES- SION OF DAGO FRANK

NEW YORK, May 20.—Charles  
Becker will not be benefited by the  
concession alleged to have been made  
by "Dago Frank" Cifrioli shortly before  
the gunman was executed for the part  
he played in carrying out the plot to  
murder Herman Rosenthal.

Cifrioli in his so-called confession  
just before he died, said he never  
heard the name of Becker mentioned  
in connection with the conspiracy that  
resulted in the killing of the gambler.  
Justice Seabury refused to admit the  
testimony concerning the alleged con-  
fession into the record.

The court's ruling was a disappoint-  
ment to both Becker and his counsel.  
Justice Seabury ruled the alleged con-  
fession had not been made in affidavit  
form and sworn to, nor had it been  
made to anyone authorized to take a  
deposition from the dying man. The  
court further declared that he was in-  
fluenced by the fact that it was not  
permissible to admit testimony dealing  
with incidents that occurred a  
long time after the commission of the  
crime.

Becker's counsel said he would  
make no further effort to get the con-  
fession in the record, but intimated it  
would play an important part in his  
application for a new trial, should  
Becker be convicted the second time.

### PASSENGERS ARE RESCUED.

GALVESTON, May 20.—The Nor-  
wegian steamer Atlantis, which left  
Galveston May 17 for Tampico with  
95 passengers, is aground 100 miles  
north of Tampico. Tugs have been  
ordered to her rescue. All passengers  
have been taken off by the U. S. bat-  
tle-ship Connecticut, according to in-  
formation received.

No details of any accident to the  
Atlantis are given, but the wireless  
messages for tugs were urgent. It is  
said the steamer is pounding to pieces.

## LUKE SHORT COMES FREE FROM JURY

Coroner's Body Recommends  
That He Be Exonerated of  
Killing of Mexican, Soto;  
Soto Fired First, Is Evidence.

Evidence Against Short Proved  
Weak; Action of Jury Does  
Not Prevent Further Steps  
But Makes These Unlikely.

Luke Short, the line rider in the  
United Customs service who was ar-  
rested last Monday evening for shoot-  
ing and killing Eduardo Soto, an  
American Mexican employed by Joe  
Kline, was discharged from custody  
at noon today by Coroner MacKay in  
accordance with the recommendation  
made in the verdict returned by the  
jury which heard the evidence at the  
inquest.

In concurring with the action taken  
by the jury, Assistant District Attor-  
ney Parso explained that the ver-  
dict would not be a bar to Short's  
rearrest should it be deemed advis-  
able, and he could see no reason for  
disregarding the recommendation of  
the jury. He said the evidence would  
be submitted to District Attorney Gil-  
more, who could have Short arrested  
again and tried if he considered it  
justified.

The verdict of the jury was that  
"Eduardo Soto came to his death  
from gunshot wounds at the hands  
of Luke Short, and we recommend  
that Luke Short be exonerated from  
all blame and discharged from cus-  
tody."

### JURY DECIDES QUICKLY.

The jury was comprised of J. A.  
Hewitt, Garland Coffey, C. S. Kravine,  
C. E. Bates, H. B. Russell and Cy  
Broome. It returned its verdict after  
only a few minutes' deliberation. The  
courtroom was crowded. When the  
verdict was read, Short's friends  
stepped forward and congratulated  
him. Mrs. Short was present during  
the proceedings.

The only witness who gave any  
valuable testimony on the main point  
at issue, the question of who fired  
the first shot, was Caleb Holden, who  
drives one of the city sprinkling  
wagons, and he stated clearly and  
definitely that the Mexican fired  
first. Holden said:

"I was filling the wagon tank at  
the corner of P avenue and Eleventh  
street, and as I shut the water off  
I saw two Mexicans coming down the  
street in a delivery wagon. One of  
them carried a six-shooter. As he  
passed me, he tucked it under the  
bib of his overalls and soon after-  
ward I saw him pull it out again. I  
saw Short following the two men and  
I thought his purpose was to take  
the gun from the Mexican, whom I  
afterward learned was Soto."

### TRIED TO WARN SHORT.

"As the Mexicans reached the cor-  
ner I heard Soto cuss his pistol. I  
started to warn Short, but a moment  
later Soto fired at him. Short re-  
turned the fire and Soto fired again.  
Each time as Short fired, I noticed  
the Mexican flinch as if he might  
have been struck. When I noticed  
the two men again Soto had slipped  
off the wagon, and he fired two shots  
from behind him."

Pompey Villagrana, who was in the  
seat with Soto when the shooting  
occurred, did not tell a clear story.  
He said that as Soto and he were  
driving along Eleventh street Soto  
holding the lines, Short came up,  
pistol in hand. He would not say  
who shot first, saying that it all  
seemed to be at once. He said he  
dodged to escape being hit and did  
not know what happened afterward.  
He said he thought Short fired first,  
because Soto handed the lines to him  
before he began shooting.

Villagrana declared that he did not  
know until the shooting started that  
Soto was carrying a gun. All he could  
say of the trouble between Short and  
Soto was that when he and Soto  
delivered a couch to the Short home  
some time ago, Short hit at Soto  
and Soto ran. The witness said he  
did not know what caused Short's  
anger.

### LELIEVIER'S TESTIMONY.

Ives G. Lelievier, local agent of the  
Constitutionalists, told of the occa-  
sion six or seven days ago when  
Soto's brother-in-law came to him and  
told him that Short was supposed  
to be looking for Soto with a gun.

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